Project at Tarapur in Maharashtra could not be commenced so far due to financial constraints, though administrative sanction for the Project was accorded in January, 1991. Pending commencement of work on the project, environmental and other clearances have been secured, site infrastructure development has been completed and major equipments for the project have already been procured.

(c) Site excavation work of TAPP-3 & 4 is expected to commence in the last quarter of 1997-98.

(d) The original time schedule for the construction of the project envisaged completion in 105 months from the date of project financial sanction. The cost overrun in the base cost of the project is Rs. 2413.5 crore, which is mainly on account of inflation.

[Translation]

Contegious Diseases

3419. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the States from where the reports of the outbreak of contegious diseases have been received;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check the spread of these diseases;

(c) whether there is any provision for extending any help to the victims of such diseases; and

(d) if so, the amount being provided to the victims as well as affected States under this provision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) The National Institute of Communicable Diseases have investigated disease outbreaks from the States of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Lakshadweep during 1997 (upto July).

(b) National Disease Programmes on Malaria, Kala-azar, Tuberculosis, Leprosy etc. are in operation for control of infectious diseases.

In addition following measures have been taken :

(i) Guidelines have been prepared and distributed for the prevention and the control of outbreak prone diseases such as dengue fever and cholera.

(ii) Assistance is provided to State Governments as and when requested for in the form of investigation of out-breaks.

(iii) Training is provided to State/District level health officers on prevention and control of communicable diseases.

(iv) A National Apical Advisory Committee (NAAC) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secretary to formulate a nation wide disease surveillance network. The action points envisaged under the disease surveillance scheme are collection and flow of information, strengthening of laboratory diagnostic services, networking of centres and continuous monitoring of disease prevalence.

(c) and (d) There is no scheme for providing financial assistance to victims of such diseases.

[English]

Space-Technology

3420. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation proposes to enter into bilateral agreements with other countries for the development and application of Space Technology for peaceful purposes;

(b) if so, the names of such countries; and

(c) the countries with whom such agreements are existing at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Space Research Organisation has a policy of co-operation with other Space agencies in the area of peaceful uses of Outer Space. Agreements for co-operation with specific countries are taken up for consideration as and when there is mutual interest.

(c) Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Australia, Canada, China, the European Space Agency, France, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Syria, the United Kingdom and Ukraine.

Encroachment on DDA Land

3421. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the encroachments made on DDA land close to various religious places in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether due to these encroachments many through fares have been disrupted; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to remedy the situation?